

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11

TRSE-00 /150 W

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P R 051625Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2697

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: AUTOLESS SUNDAYS: NEED TO PROTECT TRANSIT AND
ACCESS PRACTICES

REF: BERLIN 2053

1. SUMMARY: MISSION SUGGESTS THAT, IN ADDITION TO
MEASURES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY ALLIES TO EXERCISE
ON LIMITED SCALE THEIR RIGHTS ON ACCESS ROUTES AND ENTRY
INTO EAST BERLIN ON SUNDAYS WHEN AUTOMOBILE BAN IN
EFFECT, FRG AND SENAT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SEE TO
IT THAT VISITING RIGHTS AND USE OF TRANSIT ROUTES ARE ALSO
EXERCISED BY GERMANS ON AT LEAST LIMITED SCALE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS NOTED REFTTEL, IMPOSITION OF DRIVING BAN ON
SUNDAYS IN FRG AND WEST BERLIN IS PURELY INTERNAL
MATTER, NOT COUPLED WITH ANY DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS ON
VISITS TO EAST BERLIN OR GDR OR ON USE OF TRANSIT
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ROUTES. RESULT, HOWEVER, IS EFFECTIVELY TO RESTRICT

USE OF VEHICLES OTHER THAN BY HANDICAPPED FOR VISITS TO EAST AND TO CUT DOWN TO TRICKLE FLOW OF PASSENGER VEHICLES BETWEEN FRG AND WEST BERLIN. BERLIN HISTORY, BUILT AS IT IS ON BODY OF NOT ALWAYS CONSISTENT OR RATIONAL PRECEDENT, IS OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO CAUSE US CONCERN THAT FAILURE TO EXERCISE ALL ALLIED RIGHTS AS WELL AS PROVISIONS OF INNER-GERMAN AGREEMENTS MAY LEAD TO GDR EFFORT TO CONVERT SELF-IMPOSED PROCEDURES OF WESTERN SIDE INTO "ESTABLISHED PRACTICES." WITH THIS IN MIND, ALLIED MISSIONS HAVE MADE SURE THAT ALLIED VEHICLES ON LIMITED SCALE EXERCISE RIGHTS OF ENTRY INTO EAST BERLIN AND USE OF AUTOBAHN ON CARLESS SUNDAYS.

3. APART FROM QUESTION OF RIGHTS, THERE IS ADDITIONAL COMPELLING REASON FOR SOME EXCEPTIONS THAT HAS BEEN RAISED BY NUMBER OF BERLINERS. WEST BERLIN HAS ALWAYS RECEIVED SPECIAL TREATMENT FROM FRG TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF GEOGRAPHIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ISOLATION OF ITS RESIDENTS, WITNESS EXCEPTIONS FOR BERLIN TRAFFIC MADE DURING RECENT AIR CONTROLLERS' SLOWDOWN. WHEREAS RAPID PUBLIC TRANSIT PERMITS WEST GERMANS TO VISIT FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AND ENJOY NEARBY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES EVEN WITHOUT CARS, THIS IS NOT TRUE FOR BERLINERS.

4. FOR BOTH SETS OF REASONS, WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY IN CONSULTATION WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH MAY WISH TO ENCOURAGE FRG AUTHORITIES TO TAKE STEPS TO KEEP UP VISITATION BY CAR TO GDR AND EAST BERLIN AS WELL AS USE OF TRANSIT ROUTES TO AVOID DANGER POINTED UP BY THEO SOMMER THESIS (REFTEL), HOWEVER MISGUIDED SOMMER'S REASONING. PRESUMABLY, FRG AND SENAT COULD DEVISE CERTIFICATES OR WINDSHIELD STICKERS THAT WOULD FACILITATE CONTROLS AGAINST MISUSE, E.G., A BERLIN-BOUND FAMILY THAT LANDED UP SKIING IN THE HARZ, AND IF NEED BE, NUMBERS MIGHT BE CONTROLLED BY REQUIRING SOME STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION.

5. AT FIRST READING ALLIED MISSIONS SHARE ABOVE VIEWS, WHICH WE PLAN TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH SENAT. AS SOON AS WE HAVE EMBASSY BONN'S AND DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE.
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6. SUBSEQUENT TO PREPARATION OF ABOVE, HEAD OF SENAT CHANCELLERY HERZ INFORMED POLADS DECEMBER 5 THAT SENAT HAS BEEN THINKING ALONG PRECISELY SAME LINES AS WE AND IS IN PROCESS OF FORMULATING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS SOONEST.KLEIN

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